



VOLUME 56 ISSUE 11

December 2006

NEW PPRAA OFFICERS & BOARD

The year is nearly at an end and elections are finally over. It is time for campaign promises to be met and to meet the board members you voted into office. So, without further ado, I present the new PPRAA officers and board members.



Front Row: President, Mike Allison KØMLA, Director, Su Goguen KCØPRN, Treasurer, Dan Beals ACØCC, Jim Harris ABØUK. Back Row: Past president, Christopher Taylor NC6T, Secretary, Susan Allison KCØSYA, Director, Mike Anderson WV7T, Vice President, Doug Nielsen N7LEM

NEWS BYTES

Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) - New Repeater Maps Available
 CCARC is proud to announce that the new CCARC Colorado State Repeater Maps are now available. The maps are nicely formatted, printed on waterproof Tyvek, including frequencies and access information for most repeaters in the state. These maps now have a retail price of \$3.00 each. Unfortunately, Tyvek is oil-based and as such has seen a large increase in price since that last maps were printed in 2003. Individuals may purchase the maps at <http://www.ccarc.net/> for \$3.00 plus a modest amount to cover postage and packaging. They are also available at HRO in Denver.

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Frank Drake, Jr., editor of the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club and past Ø-Beat editor, would like to remind PPRAA members to check out their web site at <http://www.lvrac.org> and sign up to receive email notifications for their monthly newsletter. Some of the members of LVRAC have been members of the PPRAA, and vice versa. Frank said there is something about the sunshine and propagation that keeps members moving from here to there and back again.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Volunteer Examiner (VE) team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd). Exam fee is \$14.00 for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 elements at a session.

Checks should be payable to ARRL/VEC. For further details and a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC, or visit the PPRAA web site. Mark your calendars:

Dec. 9

AND THE WINNER IS...

The fun activity for this month's PPRAA monthly meeting was Morse code keys. Six people brought a variety of keys for show and tell. The display covered every kind of key used by amateur radio operators from straight keys to bugs to iambics. Some keys were home-built or modifications of well known keys. The ingenuity of hams never ceases to amaze and astound. Everyone enjoyed seeing and hearing about the keys. Doug Nielsen, N7LEM also brought a key but was not available at the photo session.



From L to R: Jim Harris ABØUK; Mike Anderson WV7T; Dan Scott KBØPPM; Ralph Rohrig KIØNK, and a very shy ham who left without giving his name and call sign.

NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2006

Attendees: Mike KØMLA, Susan KCØSYA, Jim AB0UK, Dan ACØCC, Doug N7LEM, Christopher NC6T, Rob N7LV, Mike WV7T, Su KCØPRN

President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7 PM at The Remodeler.

The October minutes were approved as printed/corrected in the Zero Beat.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – new Treasurer, just took over, updated report next meeting.

Vice President/Future Programs: No major updates yet to the website.

- ✚ Dec: Annual Christmas Party
- ✚ Jan: Home brew night
- ✚ Feb: open
- ✚ Mar: electrical safety
- ✚ Apr/May: possibly open, tentative speakers scheduled
- ✚ Jun: Field Day prep

Unfinished Business:

Megafest – Chairperson is still needed. Date scheduled for June 9th. Rick KØSU will organize forums for the event. Need a raffle manager also. Raffle license application came in, gave to Dan ACØCC to submit.

New Ham Complimentary Memberships – 4 given out so far

Christmas Party – Mike WV7T chairperson - Country Buffet at 7665 N. Academy reserved for Dec. 14 6-9pm, gift cards for Wal-Mart bought. Susan KCØSYA will come up with some additional door prizes to give out. Su KCØPRN cancelled the church reservation.

Thursday Night Simplex Net – discussion on going to a repeater and possible problems/benefits involved. Will officially move to 146.625 repeater starting Jan 4th. Will announce it throughout December to notify everyone. If there

is interference do not acknowledge it. If there are persistent problems, the net may move back to simplex.

Newsletter printing – Jackie sent board members information to consider for purchasing a printer and cartridges to print newsletter ourselves for distribution instead of using a printing company. Board chose not to pursue purchasing a printer at this time. Jim will check printing prices at Kinko's and other places to compare with current printer company. Also discussed possibility of increasing dues for members who want paper copy, to encourage switching to electronic subscriptions.

Club Business Cards – need to be updated, Christopher NC6T will take care of ordering new cards. Up to \$50 approved for expenditure by board (motioned/seconded by Christopher NC6T, Doug N7LEM).

New Business:

By-Laws, Club Manual - Rick KØSU will head this up getting these updated.

Around the Table:

Mike KØMLA will send an email to all committee chairs requesting them to send info to Jackie for the newsletter if they have information to share with membership, in order to cut down on length of club meetings. Possibly have a technical show & tell each month, for 15-20 minutes if anyone has something to share.

Dan KBØPPM will be the audit chairperson.

Discussion of possible locations for club and board meetings for next year.

Yellow PPRAA Jackets – Shirt Stop used to offer them with club logo, will gather more information on prices and availability and provide info to club members by January newsletter and the latest. Will include info on ordering name badges from another source.

Newsletter submission deadline November 25th.

Brainstorming meeting at Mike's WV7T's house this month, discussed ideas to increase attendance at club meeting. Different themes/ideas to spread throughout the year.

Working on putting together two packages to have

available at VE Testing sites (one with club information and one generic package with information for local hams that's not PPRAA specific). Need someone to take over bringing refreshments to the club meetings. Mike WV7T has the coffee pots and supplies. Anyone interested in volunteering let Mike know. Would like to form a committee to plan contests/special events. Inventory still needs to be done on club assets. Suggestion of changing Hammy award to a smaller trophy, a certificate, or starting with a new one each year.

Presented Hammy to Christopher NC6T for his year of dedicated service as club President.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, January 15th, location TBA.

Submitted by:
Susan Allison KCØSYA
PPRAA Secretary

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2006

President Mike Allison KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, followed by introductions around the room.

Treasurer's Report: Election for position of Treasurer, two volunteers: Dan ACØCC and Ralph KIØNK. Mike WV7T/Tom NØNTX (motioned/seconded) to close nominations. Written ballot. Dan ACØCC elected as new Treasurer. Treasurer's report will be given at next regular club meeting in January.

Silent Keys: none

Minutes: Minutes missed being printed in Ø-Beat, so copies were supplied at beginning of meeting for everyone to read. Minutes approved

as printed. (Motioned/seconded by Jim ABØUK/Doc WØMCT)

Committee Reports

Auditing – vacant

Megafest – a Megafest chairperson is still needed. Contact an officer or board member if interested. Megafest scheduled for June 9th at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument.

Assets – Mike WV7T

Tech Education – See our website for details. Contact Mike at WV7T@arrl.net.

Special Events – questionnaire handed out for input on club activities and how things should be run.

Reflector – John KCØJFH, 148 members

Field Day – Dan KBØPPM and Mike WV7T coordinating, maybe focus more on the public awareness aspect than making contacts. Possibly set up in Memorial Park with tours and information available for the general public. Get media coverage of event. Put your opinions, questions and suggestions on the club questionnaire handed out at meeting. Would like at least one more person to join planning committee. Contact Dan or Mike if interested in volunteering.

CCARC Liaison – Dan KBØPPM – minutes on their website.

Programs – Doug N7LEM

November – Personal Emergency Preparedness by Su KCØPRN & Ski

- ⊕ Dec: Christmas Party
- ⊕ Jan: homebrew projects
- ⊕ Feb: open for suggestions
- ⊕ Mar/Apr: lightning/electronic safety
- ⊕ May: Field Day preparation

Webmaster – Doug N7LEM – updating website hopefully by end of year with new features.

ARES Liaison - Mike KØTER – shared story from a callout on the day of the October blizzard. New registration online available, everyone asked to reregister online to clean out the membership list of inactive members.

Public Service – ARES has dropped doing a lot of public service events. Individual clubs need to

step up and volunteer to assist these organizations when needed.

VE Test Session – Dennis NØABC – to be held December 9th at Colorado Technical University at 9:00a.m. The exams are held the second Saturday of even months at CTU.

AMSAT – Tom NØNTX Committee has decided the eagle transponder will have 70cm up and 20cm down. Will be usable 70% of each pass.

RACES - Doc WØMCT – next Thursday, 7 PM, 101 W. Costilla (Sheriff's Office), shared story from callout during the October blizzard.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Christmas Party – December 13th, 6-9 pm at Country Buffet and 7665 N. Academy Blvd. Four Wal-Mart gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$100 will be given away, along with other assorted door prizes.

Simplex net on Thursday nights – thinking of moving the net to a repeater to increase participation. Also, need a few more volunteers who would like to help take turns being net control. The more people to volunteer, the less frequently you would have to take a turn.

Foxhunt – hosted by Jim ABØUK, won by Dave NØUVR. Dave will be hosting the next hunt with details to be put on the reflector.

Hammy Award – Tom NØNTX presented the Hammy to Christopher for his year of dedicated service as the club President last year who never missed a meeting.

Program – Skee Hipszky NØPRY from El Paso County Rescue gave a presentation on winter preparedness.

CW Key Event — a lot of different keys brought in to share and talk about.

Next Club Meeting: No meeting, Christmas Party instead December 13th.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, November 13th, at The Remodeler.

Submitted by:
Susan Allison KCØSYA
PPRAA Secretary
November 20, 2006

Ø-BEAT DEADLINE

The deadline for the January 2007 Ø-Beat is December 25th. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person. Please feel free to submit an article, joke or news. We need your fresh content!

PPRAA MEETING INFORMATION

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd, downstairs at the apex of the two buildings. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/> or contact any of the board members for more information.

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to the PPRAA

Can you believe that the holidays are here again? It doesn't seem that long ago I was putting up the Christmas lights on my house and now here I am getting ready to do it all again. The downside of putting up the lights is that they mess with the SWR on my horizontal dipole I have hidden under the eaves of my house, so from the end of this week until January I will be using the vertical antenna. At least the SSB sweepstakes is the week before I put up the lights.

I did have fun again this year during sweepstakes. It was amazing to me how much I have learned about operating in a contest as compared to my first sweepstakes last year. I exceeded my QSOs from last year even though I had to miss part of the evening on Saturday and spend some time at work on Sunday. I enjoy operating during contests, but I really need to get a headset and foot operated PTT so I don't have to key the microphone with one hand and type with the other. I know that a few members of the club were active during this contest so let me know how you did. The ARRL 10-meter contest is coming up on December 9-10 and I have never really used the 10-meter band so I'll most likely give it a try.

This month has also brought us the new R&O from the FCC which will take effect on Dec. 15th. There is a lot of information on the ARRL website about this order so I'm not going to go into detail here. Please visit www.arrl.org for more information. Jim, ABØUK has also put out a description of the changes on the reflector.

That's about all I have for this month. I want to close this message wishing all of you a great Holiday Season and my warmest wishes that everyone has a great 2007.

Thanks and 73,

Mike, KØMLA
PPRAA President

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All memberships are up for renewal at the end of the year. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please use the form at the bottom of this page, and fill out all of the appropriate information so that the Membership Committee can update the records. Include your family so they can share the value and the fun. If you know someone interested in joining, make a copy for them or have them visit PPRAA on the web and download a copy of the PDF file at www.qsl.net/ppraa/membership.html.

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First Class Mail

To: